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Message Text

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46
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 NIC-01 SS-15 NSC-10 SAJ-01 EB-11 COME-00

TRSE-00 AGR-20 CU-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 RSR-01 /116 W
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R 161040Z JUL 73
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6720
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, BU, UK
SUBJ: BULGARIAN-UK RELATIONS WARM UP

REF: LONDON'S 8077

1. VISIT OF SHADOW FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN TO SOFIA JULY 12-14 HIGHLIGHTS RECENT GOB EFFORT TO IMPROVE ATMOSPHERE, IF NOT SUBSTANCE, OF BULGARIAN-UK RELATIONS. ALTHOUGH CALLAGHAN VISIT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN LOW-KEY FAMILIARIZATION TRIP, HE WAS RECEIVED BY FONMIN MLADENOV, CC SECRETARY IN CHARGE FOREIGN RELATIONS TELLALOV, FATHERLAND FRONT CHAIRMAN GEORGI TRAYKOV, AND TOP DOG TODOR ZHIVKOV. VISIT WELL COVERED BY GOB MEDIA.

2. CALLAGHAN'S TRIP CAME ON HEELS OF THAT OF PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY SIR DENNIS GREENHILL, DURING WHICH BULGARIANS MADE STRONG PITCH FOR IMPROVEMENT OF BILATERIAL RELATIONS, WITH EXPECTED EMPHASIS ON TRADE. GREENHILL RECEIVED BY PREMIER STANKO TODOROV BUT NOT ZHIVKOV. BULGARIANS SUGGESTED NEED TO EXPAND BI-
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LATERAL TRADE AND RESTRUCTURE BULGARIAN EXPORTS TO

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UK AWAY FROM AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS WHICH NOW PRE-
DOMINATE. INVITATION RENEWED TO SIR ALEC DOUGLAS-HOME
TO VISIT BULGARIA, AND TODOROV MADE CLEAR GOB WOULD
WELCOME MORE HIGH-LEVEL VISITS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES.
IN THIS CONNECTION BRITISH WERE SOMEWHAT SURPRISED AT
GOB SUGGESTION TO BROADEN CULTURAL CONTACTS, INCLUDING
VISITING SCHOLARS AND THEATER, MUSIC ENSEMBLES. TWO
OTHER MINOR AGREEMENTS PROPOSED BY GOB, ONE TO IMPROVE
ACCESS TO LEGAL FACILITIES, SECOND FOR RECIPRICAL RE-
OGNITION OF ACADEMIC DEGREES.

3. COMMENT: BRITISH VISITS COME AT A PROPITIOUS TIME
FOLLOWING PODGORNY'S RINGING ENDORSEMENT OF IMPROVED
ATMOSPHERE OF EAST-WEST COOPERATION AND GAVE GOB
OPPORTUNITY TO PUSH FOR MORE VISITS BY WESTERN STATES-
MEN. IN EXTENDING INVITATION TO FOREIGN SECRETARY,
TODOROV NOTED INVITATION TO SECRETARY ROGERS AS EXAMPLE
OF NEW MOOD. BRITISH HERE HAVE INDICATED SOME CONCERN THAT
BULGARIANS ARE ANXIOUS TO PLAY-UP OCTOBER VISIT OF
PRINCE PHILLIP ON OLYMPIC COMMITTEE BUSINESS AS
"ALMOST STATE VISIT" BUT ADMIT THEY ARE PLEASED
AT APPARENT GOB DESIRE TO IMPROVE RELATION.
HOUSTON

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